THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Friday, the 7th March 1947.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Inclusion of menial staff in regular establishments.

* 76 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: With reference to answer to Question No. 53 and supplementary questions and answers to it on the 11th September 1946, will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government propose to include all the 'menial' staff employed in the hospitals in the regular establishment;

(*b*) whether the question of providing leave reserve for the menial staff is under consideration;

(*c*) whether all the menial staff employed in Government hospitals will be governed by leave rules applicable to other public servants; and

(*d*) whether the members of the menial staff who retire prematurely would be entitled to gratuity or proportionate pension?

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"(*a*), (*c*) & (*d*) The Cabinet Salaries Committee have made certain recommendations regarding the conversion of a portion of the contingent establishment and the grant of leave on pay and gratuity for such establishment. The Surgeon-General has been requested to submit proposals for giving effect to these recommendations.

"(*b*) A Committee constituted by the Surgeon-General to examine and report on the conditions of service of hospital workers has made certain suggestions in the matter, which are under consideration separately."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—"May I know whether the Cabinet Sub-Committee's Report has given reasons why only a portion of the menial staff is to be employed on a permanent basis."

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"The Salaries Sub-Committee recommended that only such of those contingent labour as is required for the efficient conduct of each department should be made permanent and not the entire lot of contingent establishment."

Distribution of mill cloth in Malabar.

* 77 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the distribution of mill cloth in Malabar district is to be entrusted exclusively to the producers-cum-consumers' co-operative societies;

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(b) whether it is proposed to extend this arrangement to areas where similar societies have been brought into existence or will be organized;

(c) whether there are sufficient number of producers-cum-consumers' co-operative societies specially in Malabar to serve conveniently interior and remote villages;

(d) whether this policy of preference to producers-cum-consumers' co-operative societies is to be adopted even where suitable existing co-operative organizations are willing to undertake the distribution of cloth or yarn;

(e) whether the Government have received complaints that this preference shown to producers-cum-consumers' co-operative societies will practically drive the retailers in mill cloth from the field;

(f) whether it is a fact that the retail dealers in mill cloth hold licences under the Textile Control Order, having satisfied the conditions laid down therein;

(g) whether it is a fact that this policy amounts in the opinion of cloth-dealers to a breach of faith; and

(h) whether it is proposed to continue the new licensing policy only temporarily or for all time to come?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" (a) Yes.

" (b) & (d) While the intention of the Government is to utilize to the extent practicable the producers-cum-consumers' co-operative societies for the distribution of mill-made cloth, they do not propose to prohibit other suitable co-operative societies from undertaking the work. Each case will be decided on its merits, due regard being paid to local conditions.

" (c) There are 106 producers-cum-consumers' co-operative societies in Malabar which are sufficient to serve conveniently the whole of the district including interior and remote villages except the Attapadi Valley, which is a special area. The question of making arrangements for the supply of cloth in that area is under consideration.

" (d) The question has been answered.

" (e) Yes.

" (f) Yes.

" (g) No.

" (h) The new licensing policy will be continued as long as control over the distribution of mill cloth and yarn exists and after if circumstances necessitate.

" In view of the representations made to Government that merchants who will be eliminated under the decision to distribute mill cloth in the Malabar district exclusively through the agency of the producers-cum-consumers' co-operative societies, should be given some time to enable them to adjust themselves to the changed conditions and as it will take some time for the producers-cum-consumers' co-operative societies to make adequate arrangements for the distribution of mill cloth, the

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Government have decided to postpone the introduction of the revised arrangements to 1st June 1947. For the same reasons, the Government have also decided to defer the decision to utilize the existing co-operative organizations and the producers–cum–consumers' co-operative societies for distribution of cloth in the district other than Malabar till the end of May 1947."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know what is the area of operations of each producers-cum-consumer's co-operative society? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" Each firka has got two or three societies and the whole district is included for distribution."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether there are two or three sub-depots under each society for the distribution of cloth and other necessaries? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" I take it is so."

SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that these 106 societies have taken over the control of the entire 3,000 ration shops in the district."

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" It is so, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know who is the deciding authority whether certain co-operative societies other than producers-cum-consumers' co-operative societies can also be entrusted with this task of distributing cloth? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" The department concerned, Sir."

SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Will it not be possible to distribute through those shops which have been taken over by the co-operative societies? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" Yes, Sir."

Issue of licences to merchants.

* 78 *Q*.—SRI S. A. S. RM. RAMANATHAN CHETTIYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a fresh licence was issued to Messrs. Rukmani Stores, Royapetta High Road, Madras, while rejecting the applications of many other merchants during the basic period;

(*b*) if so, the reasons for such favoured treatment;

(*c*) what is the policy of the Government in issuing fresh licences;

(*d*) whether it is true that the estimated additional expenses for the transfer of the Textile department to the Collectorate is nearly seven lakhs of rupees per year;

(*e*) if so, the reason for such transfer at such an enormous expense;